GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3914
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
IGNORING OF RAILWAY SAFETY COMMISSIONER`S OBSERVATIONS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the observation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety that usage of overdue POH stock is adefinite safety hazard which is used to the extent of 26.4 per cent of the coaches;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the observations of the Commissioner of Railway Safety and the actiontaken by the Railways against the officials responsible therefor and taking the safety of the passengers to ride;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ensure that no POH stock which is overdue is used; and

(d) the number of railway accidents that have taken place because of this after the rendition of CAG report 9of 1999 giving the effect thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) and (b) No, Sir. As on 1-9-2001, the overdue POH percentageof coaches on Indian Railways was4.3%. A time based schedule for Periodic Overhauling of coacheswas laid down based on wear and tear. This periodicity has no direct bearing on safety and maintenance instructions permit use of such coaches after specified safety checks. However, for effective management control, the status of overdue coaches is regularly watched and in rare occasions if such coaches are to be permitted in train service, detailed checks as specified in maintenance manuals are carried out.

(c) All efforts are made to ensure that no overdue POHcoach is released for traffic use. However, in unavoidable circumstances, a procedure has been laid to check safety related items and then only utilise the coach. Number of overdue POH coaches is very small and there is a continuous trend of improvement over last 5 years as shown below:

Year	Coach Overdue POH
1996-97	7.9%
1997-98	6.4%
1998-99	5.4%
1999-00	4.7%
2000-01	4.7%
2001-02 (upto Sep,01)	4.3%

(d) As per information available, no accident on account of overdue coaches has taken place in last 3 years.